

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JANUARY 30, 1860.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. DAVIS made the following

REPORT.

[To accompany Bill S. 61.]

The Committee on Military Affairs and the Militia, to whom was referred S. Bill No. 61, having had the same under consideration, report:

This bill proposes a reorganization of the several departments and corps of the army to promote its efficiency, and a reduction of the present number of officers, with a consequent diminution of expenditure of nearly \$109,000.

The first and second sections provide for the appointment, by selection from the field officers of the army, of four additional brigadier generals, so that the whole number of brigadier generals in the army will be eight, and they are necessary to command as follows:

One, the military department of the east; one, the military department of the west; one, the military department of Texas; one, the military department of New Mexico; one, the military department of the Pacific; one, the military department of Utah; one to be adjutant general; one to be quartermaster general.

SEC. 3. Staff departments. In the adjutant general's department, four of the captains are to be promoted to majors, and the grade of captain in that department, now including eight officers, is to be prospectively abolished. In the quartermaster's department there is to be a reduction of one colonel, and one lieutenant colonel; an increase of four majors, and the grade of captain, now including twenty-eight officers, to be prospectively abolished. In the subsistence department, four captains are promoted to majors, and the grade of captain, now including eight officers, to be prospectively abolished.

In the medical department there is to be an increase of two assistant surgeon generals, with the assimilated rank of lieutenant colonel, and a reduction of two in the number of surgeons holding the assimilated rank of major.

In the pay department all the offices are to be abolished as they become vacant, and the duties now performed by paymasters are to be performed by officers of the quartermaster's department.

The advantages to the troops of this change will be, that payments to them may thereby be made more regularly and frequently.

Section 4 and 5 provide for the assignment of first and second lieutenants of regiments to duty in the staff departments, and for their return to their regiments, whenever it shall be necessary or proper.

This will secure as staff officers those who have previously served in the regiments, and their experience therein will give them additional qualifications for staff duty, particularly when serving with troops in the field.

Section 6 is based upon the same theory as to the corps of engineers and ordnance. All the officers in these corps will thus be required to have previously served in the regiments, and thereby to have become acquainted with the duties, wants, and habits of troops. At present assignments are made to those corps from the graduated cadets, according to their standing in their class in the Military Academy. By the proposed change all the officers will first serve with troops, and the decision as to their fitness for the scientific corps will be made when the mind and character have been matured. Competition for these appointments will be open to all the first lieutenants of the army, thus inducing to a continuation of the study of science, and the competitors examination provided for, will secure attainment, whilst it demonstrates the capacity for further progress by unaided effort.

In the engineer corps there is a reduction of two captains and forty-nine lieutenants, and an increase of one lieutenant colonel.

In the ordnance corps there is a reduction of two captains and twenty-two lieutenants, and an increase of one lieutenant colonel.

The enlisted men of the ordnance department are to be organized as the enlisted men of the engineer corps are by existing laws.

Section seven provides for additional lieutenants in the regiments of the line, so that the details for staff, engineer, and ordnance duties, rendered necessary by the reductions proposed in those corps, may not interfere with the proper discharge of field and garrison duties.

It being important that the head of a company should not be separated from the body, it is provided that captains of companies shall not be detached from their commands for more than sixty days at any one time, except by special direction of the President.

Section eight provides auxiliary means for carrying out the permanent organizations before provided for.

Section nine provides that promotions in the regimental grades of commissioned officers shall be by regiments or corps and not by arms of service as at present.

The following tables will exhibit the changes in the several departments, and the increase and reduction of annual expense consequent thereupon.

The increase in expenditure will be—

1 brigadier general	\$3,882
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There being now four brigadier generals by present organization, and three brigadier generals by brevet assigned to duty as such.

1 lieutenant colonel of topographical engineers.....	2,532
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1 lieutenant colonel of ordnance	2,532
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60 first lieutenants of regiments	78,120
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16 second lieutenants of regiments	19,872
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Additional pay of 26 lieutenants detailed for staff duty, (sec. 4)	11,544
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Additional pay of 50 lieutenants detailed for engineer and ordnance duty, (sec. 6)	10,398
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Total increase of expenses	128,880
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Reduction of expenditure—

5 colonels of staff.....	13,536
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1 lieutenant colonel of staff.....	2,532
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15 majors of staff.....	33,660
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48 captains of staff, engineer and ordnance.	79,200
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71 lieutenants of engineer and ordnance.....	102,950
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Additional pay of 19 regimental quartermasters, (sec. 5).....	5,928
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Difference or reduction per annum	108,926
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